E.

INTELL. LIBRARY

BOROUGH OF OSSETT,
1925.

FIFTY-SECOND

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

W. L. RENÉ WOOD, ESQ.,

Together with the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

OSSETT:
S. COCKBURN AND SON, THE BOROUGH PRINTING WORKS
AND "OBSERVER" OFFICE.

Sanitary Committee, 1925.

Chairman:

ALDERMAN M. MARSH.

Members:

ALDERMAN D. H. ARCHER,
,, P. J. BOOTH,
,, T. J. PEACE,
COUNCILLOR N. ARMITAGE,
,, D. B. BROADHEAD,
,, D. ELLIS,
,, T. H. HARTLEY,
,, J. ILLINGWORTH,
,, J. H. MOORHOUSE,
,, J. H. NETTLETON,
,, N. OLDROYD,
,, W. PATTERSON,
,, S. B. STEAD,
,, T. WESTWOOD,
,, G. F. WILSON.

TO THE SANITARY AUTHORITY OF THE BOROUGH OF OSSETT.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Borough for the past year.

I beg to tender my thanks to the Chairman and Committee for the courteous consideration which they have invariably shown to any subject which I may have had occasion to bring to their notice. My thanks are also due to the various officials of the Corporation for the assistance I have received from them.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.—The area of the district is 3,332 acres. The population at the Census of 1921 was 14,802. Estimated population to the middle of 1926, 14,900 (Registrar-General's figures). (The estimated population to middle of 1926 is based on the adjusted 1921 figures after allowance for the varying rates of natural increase as evidenced by the births and deaths and of migration as indicated from other sources of information such as the changes in the numbers on the Electoral Register and returns obtained from the Board of Trade).

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.—The Borough of Ossett is a widely-scattered district, the older part of the town consisting of groups of houses at considerable distances apart. New houses, to a certain extent, begin to occupy spaces between these groups, resulting in more continuity in building and street conformation. A considerable area of the land is used for agriculture, but to a much less degree during the last few years. The whole area occupies an elevated position. The highest point is Gawthorpe, to the N.W., with an altitude of about 400ft. above sea level. The Centre of the town is 300ft. high. The Northern portion slopes gradually to the N.E., draining to Bushy Beck. On the West the slope is more abrupt, to the Chickenley and Pildacre

Becks. The Southern boundary is formed by the River Calder, which flows from W. to E., the land sloping towards it rapidly. There is a more gradual inclination in the direction of the S.E. portion of the Borough to Whitley Spring Beck. Outfall sewage works are situated at Healey and the Spa and to these points the sewage is conveyed by gravitation.

The Geological formation belongs to the coal measure series and consists of sandstone and shale, with beds of coal. Sandstone rock crowns the summits of the various elevations, and the surface partakes of the nature of the underlying rock, being sandy and stony, but it is clayey in parts when it is derived from the disintegration of shale.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES.—The number of inhabited houses at the Census of 1921 was 3,721, and the number of families or separate occupiers 3,793.

RATEABLE VALUE.—The rateable value of the property within the Borough amounts to £65,061. A penny rate realises the sum of £260 for Poor Rate and £248 for District Rate.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.—Ossett is primarily an industrial town. The staple industry consists of the rag trade, the making of shoddy and mungo. This part of the industry is responsible for the employment of a large proportion of the inhabitants, and involves a very considerable amount of female labour. I wish again to point out that no ill-effects to health can be attributed to this industry, although plant and vegetable life is undoubtedly affected by the carbonising processes. A destructive change takes place in the teeth of those directly associated with carbonising and the same cause may account to some extent for the generally bad state of the teeth noticed in the inhabitants of the district. The remainder of the workers amongst the population find employment in the coal mines and a small proportion in agriculture.

PARLIAMENTARY VOTERS.—The number of voters on the Register for Ossett for the year 1925 was: Autumn Register, Local Government 6,619, Parliamentary 7,794.

POOR LAW RELIEF.—The amount expended in outdoor relief in the Borough during the year ending December 31st, 1925, was £1,720 18s. 3d. Apart from the Poor Law, gratuitous medical relief is obtained from the Dewsbury and Wakefield Hospitals. Further gratuitous medical relief is also obtained from the Bradford and Leeds Infirmaries in some cases.

METEOROLOGY.—Rainfall for the year, in inches : January 1·93, February 3·48, March ·75, April 1·61, May 4·11, June ·08, July ·72, August 2·46, September 2·99, October 1·96, November 1·44, December 1·63; total 23·16 inches.

Average daily temperature 44·16 degrees Fahr. The prevailing wind, Westerly, this being the direction of the wind for about nine months in the year.

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—I am indebted to the Borough Engineer for most of this information.

SEWAGE WORKS, SPA.—Area drained, 1,950 acres. Population drained, 9,000.

WATER CONSUMPTION.—Domestic, 78,901,000 gallons per annum; Trade, 62,920,000 gallons. Number of Water Closets, 1,210.

FLOW OF SEWAGE.—Daily volume (average dry weather flow), 807,400 gallons. Estimated by gaugings.

TRADE EFFLUENTS.—Proportionate volume, 631,400 gallons. Chiefly from dye-pans.

STORM WATER.—Combined system of sewage. There are 4 storm overflows. Fixed weirs. Storm water purified in tanks.

OUTFALL WORKS AT HEALEY.—Area drained, 1,250 acres. Population, about 4,000.

WATER CONSUMPTION.—Domestic and trade: No separate record.

FLOW OF SEWAGE.—Daily volume (average dry weather flow), 308,500 gallons. Estimated by gaugings.

TRADE EFFLUENTS.—Proportionate volume, 232,000 gallons. Chiefly from dye-pans.

STORM WATER.—Combined system. There are 4 storm overflows. Fixed weirs. Purified by land filtration.

NEW SEWERS.—The following were constructed during the year: Queen's Drive, 400 yards of 12in. surface water sewer to Athold Street, 400 yards 12in. foul water sewer to Athold Street, 680 yards 15in. surface water sewer Athold Street to stream, 560 yards 15in. foul water sewer Athold Street to Teall Street; Queen's Drive Extension, 139 yards 9in. surface water sewer, 139 yards 9in. foul water sewer, 850 yards 12in. surface water sewer, 850 yards 12in. foul water sewer.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The Authority exercising supervision is the West Riding Rivers Board. The result of frequent inspections during the year has been satisfactory. Means have generally been taken and adopted by manufacturers to prevent pollution. No complaints have been received.

CONVERSION OF EARTH CLOSETS TO WATER CLOSETS.—Closets converted during the year:—

	No. of existing Earth Closets.	No. of Conversions.
1922	1334	40
1923	1280	54
1924	1219	61
1925	1092	127

Number of Notices served on landlords or householders with regard to conversions 26.

Number of Notices acceded to, 20.

Proposed number of conversions to be carried out during 1926, 50 per month.

There has been much controversy on the subject of conversions of earth to water closets, and I am entirely in agreement with the frequent statements made in the Press that the process is dilatory and that the slow progress made is against the general principle of public health. Great steps are to be taken during 1926 to hurry on this much needed reform. The urgent necessity must appeal to all who have the welfare of the community at heart.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.—There were 271 registered during the year, as compared with 287 in 1924.

	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	147	118
Illegitimate	2	4

This gives a birth-rate of 17·81 per 1,000 per annum—again the lowest birth-rate recorded during the last 30 years.

DEATHS.—172 deaths occurred in the Borough and 41 took place amongst residents outside, giving a total of 213 deaths belonging to the District, the death-rates being 11·26 and 14·08 per 1,000 per annum respectively. There were 23 deaths in infants under one year, giving an infantile mortality of 84 per 1,000 births.

I append the vital statistics as compiled in the recently issued report of the Registrar-General.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—Twenty-three deaths occurred in children under one year who belonged to the District. Of these, 19 deaths were registered in the Borough and four died in institutions outside. The infantile mortality, calculated on the number of deaths actually taking place in Ossett, was 70 per 1,000 births. This figure compares very favourably with that published by the Registrar-General for England and Wales, London and great towns.

It is an accepted fact that want and poverty, overcrowding and the absence of facilities for home nursing are very important factors in the number of infant deaths.

I claim that every woman confined should have skilled nursing and medical care, and above all a period of rest from work before labour. I am pleased to say that maternal mortality is very low in Ossett, being only ·45 per 100 births, and this initial care, although it primarily concerns the mother's immediate welfare, has necessarily far-reaching effects on her future health and on that of the child. This cause of death has been greatly reduced partly due to improvement in certification of puerperal septicæmia. Still one looks for further reduction. More public health nurses, improvement in home conditions, the obliteration of that great danger the untrained midwife, and education of the public as to maternal hygiene.

Statistics show that the towns in which the infantile mortality is lowest are those where there has been a great development of voluntary effort in the direction of Infant Welfare.

One admits that, in Industrial Districts such as this, want of air space and overcrowding lower the child's vitality. But what is possible in one district should be in another. People have certainly different grades of opportunities. Our duty is to bring the blessings of the higher opportunities and facilities for a healthy life to the doorsteps of those unfortunate people who have been deprived of them up to now. The past generation has reduced infantile mortality by 50% and it is our duty to see that we do not fail to carry on in the future the good work which has been accomplished in the past and to endeavour to study the question of infantile mortality both from its economic and social aspect.

Of the 23 infants who died, 17 **did not** attend the Welfare.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—There were 33 cases of infectious diseases notified during the year : Scarlet Fever 17 ; Erysipelas 7 ; Diphtheria 6 ; Enteric Fever 2 ; and Ophthalmia Neonatorum 1. In all, 31 cases were moved to hospital.

In addition there were 28 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 6 of other forms of Tubercular disease.

Birth-rate, Death-rate and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1925.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1925, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1924. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.)

	Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Population.	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population.										Rate per 1,000 Births.		Percentage of Total Deaths.		
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.		Diarrhœa and Enteritis (under 2 Years).	Total Deaths under One Year.	Causes of Death Certified by Registered Medical Practitioners	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
England and Wales	18 3	12·2	0 01	0·00	0·13	0·03	0·15	0 07	0 32	0·47		8·4	75	92·1	6·9	1·0
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	18·8	12 2	0·01	0·00	0 17	0·03	0·18	0·09	0 30	0·43		10·8	79	92·1	7 3	0·6
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000-50,000)	18·3	11 2	0 01	0·00	0·15	0·02	0·14	0 06	0 31	0·38		7·6	74	93 0	5·9	1·1
London	18·0	11·7	0 01	0·00	0·08	0·02	0·19	0·11	0 23	0·46		10·6	67	91·1	8·9	0·0
Ossett	**17·81**	**11·26**	**0·00**	**0·00**	**0·06**	**0·00**	**0·06**	**0·06**	**0·10**	**0·01**		**0·06**	**84**	**96·7**	**3·3**	**0·6**

I wish to emphasize the urgent necessity of early admission to Sanatorium. This is being delayed by force of " the waiting list." Rest is an essential factor, especially in the early stages of the disease. Why this is not better appreciated it is difficult to understand. There is no time limit, it may be a month or a year. How can this be done unless the patient is admitted to Sanatorium ? In addition good food is necessary, as is fresh air.

Diphtheria accounted for one death.

A supply of antitoxin is available on application to me, this being supplied by the Sanitary Authority under the Diphtheria Antitoxin (Outside London) Order, 1910.

Bacteriological aid is readily available at the West Riding Medical Officer of Health's Laboratories, Wakefield.

Disinfection is rigidly carried out in all cases of infectious disease. Although not compulsory, removal of all cases of infectious disease to hospital is strongly advised, where complete isolation at home is not possible. This procedure doubtless cut short what threatened to develop into a serious epidemic of Scarlet Fever during the year.

VACCINATION.—The percentage of children vaccinated continues low, a danger not to be overlooked. I am afraid parents do not appreciate the responsibility they take upon themselves by not having their children vaccinated.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.—The centre grows, as do our responsibilities as regards these children. We want to do more, but to achieve our aims we must have more room and greater facilities, so we wait for our new premises and trust we may soon be installed in a building which will allow us to extend and develop. The values of the Welfare need hardly be dwelt upon, results prove themselves. We all know that among these babies there is the discovery of much defect that would otherwise be missed and possibly become established in some serious disability. It is becoming less frequent to see bow-legged children walking about our streets. One has only to look back a decade to appreciate the great difference in the prevalence

of Rickets, and the time is not far distant when such distressing " eye-sores " will be unknown. Much tribute is due to the ladies and the nurse, who have given their untiring support and assistance.

PILDACRE WATER SCHEME.—This is now nearing completion, and what has been a much delayed enterprise should soon be in operation.

The quarterly reports from Mr. Chaston Chapman, F.I.C., F.R.S., continue to be satisfactory. He states in his last report that : " the water maintains its general standard of purity."

HOUSING still progresses, but the shortage of houses remains urgent, and overcrowding has been much reduced. I append a report of the work done during the year.

SCAVENGING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.—This has been much more satisfactory, complaints have been few and rapidly dealt with. I notice that a number of ash-pit middens require structural repairs, leaky roofs and broken doors ; the latter are particularly objectionable during the hot weather when the ingress and egress of flies is greatly facilitated.

The roads in the Borough have been kept in a very satisfactory condition.

PRIVATE ROADS.—Generally speaking these are in a deplorable condition, and, during wet weather, many are utterly impossible for traffic. In some cases, causeway accommodation is so insufficient that pedestrians must, at times, wade through a sea of mud. Steps should be taken to point out to landlords or persons concerned that they have certain responsibilities towards those who have to make use of these roads.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. L. RENE WOOD.

APPENDIX A.

TABLE C.

NUISANCE INSPECTIONS.

Total No. of Inspections made in 1925, for Nuisances only—2,435.

Nuisances reported in 1925—943. Total needing abatement —954.

Nuisances in hand, end of 1924—11. Abated during 1925—938.

Outstanding, end of 1925—16.

Notices served, informal—302. Complied with—292.

Notices served, Statutory—37. Complied with—31.

Total number of Summonses or other legal proceedings—None.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, etc.	No. in District.	No. on Register.	No. of Inspections made.	General Condition.	Legal Proceedings (if any).
Common Lodging Houses ...	0	0	0	—	—
Houses let in Lodgings ...	0	0	0	—	—
Canal Boats	0	0	0	—	—
Knackers' Yards	0	0	0	—	—
Tents, Vans and Sheds ...	0	0	0	—	—
Offensive Trades	12	12	150	Good	—

(3 Fellmongers, 1 Gut Scraper, 8 Tripe Boilers.)

Have the Council declared any other processes to be offensive trades?—No.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Any developments during 1925?—None, except New Street.

Developments still needed as to (a) Want of sewers?—No; (b) Improvement of defective sewers?—No.

Any inadequacy of Sewage Disposal Works or complaints relating thereto?—No.

Are there any sink wastes still needing disconnection?—No.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No. of Privies with open middens—8. No. of Pail or Tub Closets—None.

No. of Privies with covered middens—1,092. No. of Water Closets, 1,537. Waste-water Closets—80.

No. of Privies re-constructed during 1925 (a) as w.c.'s—127, (b) Other—None.

No. of additional Closets provided for old property in 1925 (a) w.c.'s—15; (b) Other—None.

No. of Closets constructed in 1925 for new houses (a) w.c.'s —45; (b) Other—None.

SCAVENGING.

Any change during 1925?—No.

Performed by (a) Council—Yes; (b) Contractor—No.

How is refuse disposed of?—No. of loads to (a) Destructor—3,210 tons 16 cwts.; (b) Tips—2,558; (c) Farmers—1,240; Total annual cost £1,451 8s. 11d.

Is there any inadequacy, and where?—No.

Any utilisation or salvage of waste material; if so, what?—Sale of Scrap Iron, etc.

WATER SUPPLY.

Any developments during 1925?—New Pildacre Water Scheme nearing completion.

Was supply restricted in any way?—No.

Any general insufficiency, and where?—Supply has been equal to demand.

Any action in regard to unsatisfactory quality, and where?—Slight plumbo solvent action satisfactorily dealt with.

Any new sources added?—Being developed.

Any disused sources re-used?—No.

MILK SUPPLY.

Are two registers being kept, as required by Section 2 (3) of the 1922 Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act (a) For Retailers?—Yes; (b) For Cowkeepers or Wholesale Traders?—Yes.

Have any Licences been granted under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, to distributors of "Certified" milk?—No; Grade A?—No; Grade A (Tuberculin tested)?—No; Grade A (Pasteurised)?—No; Pasteurised?—No.

Have any retailers been removed from the Register?—No.

No. of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for analysis under F. & D. Acts?—None; No. adulterated—None.

No. of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for bacteriological examination—None.

What arrangements for periodical Veterinary Inspection of dairy cows?—Called in when necessary.

Any instance of disease attributed to milk in 1925?—No.

No. of Cowkeepers in district producing and selling milk—36; No. registered—36.

No. of Retail Milk Sellers who are also Cowkeepers—33; No. who are Milk Retailers only—10; Total No. of Retail Milk Sellers Registered—43.

Total No. of Cowsheds—38; Total No. of Inspections in 1925—204.

Date of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Regulations—March 1st, 1907 (practically identical with latest model). Any Legal Action?—No.

Any Inspection or other Action by Districts to which Milk is sent?—No.

OTHER FOODS.

No. of Samples taken by Officer of S.A. for examination under the Foods and Drugs Act—8. No. adulterated—None.

No. of seizures of unsound food—None. Kind and quantity—None. No. of Prosecutions—None.

If any Public Abattoir—No. What accommodation—None.

No. of Slaughter-houses—11. No. Registered—1. No. Licensed—10. No. unsatisfactory, structurally, or in bad position—None.

Times each Slaughter-house was inspected—43. Total No. of Inspections—473.

No. of Prosecutions (a) Food and Drugs—None; (b) Unsound Food—None; (c) re Slaughter-houses—None.

Bakehouses, No.—13. Any Underground?—No. Total No. of Inspections—157.

SCHOOLS.

No. of Schools visited by M.O.H.—All.

Action taken—Occasional disinfection. Schools closed occasionally for short period for disinfection only.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

No. of Smoke observations taken—50. No. of Cautions—Two. Legal Notices—None. Summonses—None.

No. of Workshops—157. Times each Workshop was inspected—2. Total inspections—314.

Any Industrial Welfare Workers appointed?—No.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	None	—	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	157	—	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	None	—	—
Total	314	—	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Nature of Defects.			Number of Offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
*Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—**				
Want of Cleanliness	13	13	—	—
	13	13	—	—

Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 108—Nil.

ADOPTIVE ACTS in force in District.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890—Yes.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890—Parts 2, 3, 4, 5.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907—Sec. 50.

Private Street Works Act, 1892—Yes.

Public Health Act, 1925—No.

BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS in force in District.

Subject.	Date of Approval.
Cleansing of Footpaths and Pavements ...	—
Scavenging	—
Prevention of Nuisances	...Clauses in Local Act —1915.
Common Lodging Houses	- -
New Streets and Buildings	...Improved, 1925.
Alteration of Buildings	—
Slaughter Houses	...New Bye-laws, 1925 (Model).
Baths and Wash-Houses	—
Houses let in Lodgings	—
Cemeteries	—
Mortuaries	—
Offensive Trades	—
Tents, Vans and Sheds	—

Any relaxation of Byelaws under Section 24 of Housing and Town Planning Act, 1919—No.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

What diseases have been specially prevalent in 1925?—Scarlet Fever. State months—October and November.

Any diseases specially added to notifiable list?—None.

Any Influences threatening the health of the District?—None.

Any prevalence of Venereal Diseases?—No.

Any prevalence of Jaundice, and at what ages?—No.

HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

(a) General: Accident—None.
(b) Local: Smallpox—Storrs Hill Road.
(c) Maternity—None.
(d) Arrangements for Nursing Puerperal Fever Cases?—No.

(e) Clinic and Treatment Centre not provided by County Council Scheme—No.

Whether any other disease (e.g., Pneumonia) is treated in Infectious Diseases Hospital—No.

TUBERCULOSIS.

(1) Inspection of patient's home and workshop—Frequently.

(2) Examination for contacts—Yes.

(3) Is house disinfected?—Yes. When?—Periodically and at death.

(4) Leaflets, Lectures, etc., distributed?—In all cases.

(5) Action re spitting—Literature and flasks provided.

(6) Is sputum examined apart from Dispensary?—Yes.

(7) Any special procedure adopted in cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis with T.B. in sputum?—Removal to Sanatorium when possible. Isolation.

(8) Are the requirements of Tuberculosis Regulations as to notification observed by general practitioners?—Yes.

BACTERIOLOGY—

(County Laboratory) Any suggestions?—No.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Any suggestions?—No.

Any voluntary Centres for Child or Mother Welfare?—Yes.

Causes of any excessive Infant Mortality in 1925—Premature Birth and Debility at Birth.

Supply of Milk to Mothers and Infants. Any action?—Yes, through Welfare.

Suggestions will be welcomed regarding (a) Maternity and Infant Welfare Schemes—More commodious premises; (b) Ante-natal Schemes?—Being developed.

VITAL STATISTICS.

No. of Still Births during 1925, 11.

Deaths during 1925—(1) Gross Deaths, i.e., Total actually registered in the District without any correction—172. No. of Uncertified deaths (included above)—7.

MORTUARIES.

What accommodation (a) for accidents—One, at Fire Station; (b) for infectious cases other than at hospital —None; (b) for other purposes—None. Any suggestions made by M.O.H.?—No.

SANITARY STAFF.

What is the present Annual Salary of the M.O.H.?—£70.
Name of Sanitary Inspector—C. Firth.
Annual Salary as Inspector—£300.
Other appointments held—None.
Any Assistants?—No.
Is staff sufficient?—Yes.
Does M.O.H. receive copies of Memos. and Circulars distributed by Ministry of Health?—Yes.

CLINICS.

Any suggestions (a) Tuberculosis—No; (b) Venereal Diseases—No. Pamphlets given by local Medical Men; (c) Child Welfare—New premises urgently needed ; (d) Ante-Natal—No ; (e) School—No. ; (f) Dental—Additional facilities required; (g) Ophthalmic—No.

ANY REMARKS as to—

(a) Voluntary Agencies for social betterment?—No.
(b) District Nursing Association?—Yes, very satisfactory.
(c) Any Dispensary?—No.
(d) Health Visiting?—Health Visitor—satisfactory.
(e) Tuberculosis, Home Visiting?—No.
(f) Dental Services?—As above.
(g) Midwifery Services?—Satisfactory.
(h) Propaganda work re Tuberculosis, Child Welfare or Venereal Diseases?—No.

HOUSING.

No. of Certificates given under Increase of Rent (Restriction) Act, 1920, Sec. 2 (2)—None.

(Signed) W. L. RENE WOOD,
Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1925 and Previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett.				of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.			Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1919	14,550		262	18·26	231	16·10		23	26	111	254	17·70
1920	14,081		399	25·40	207	13·40		18	35	83	223	15·82
1921	14,050		340	22·59	185	12·22		25	41	120	219	13·81
1922	15,050		295	19·60	159	10·55		25	20	67	184	12·13
1923	15,120		287	18·94	194	12·76		27	26	90	226	14·94
1924	15,180		287	17·85	163	10·78		37	20	69	200	13·22
1925	14,900		271	17·81	172	11·26		41	23	84	213	14·08

Area of District in acres (land and inland water). 3332

Total population at all ages 15,120
Total families or separate occupiers ... 3,793
Total Rooms in use 12,915
Buildings not for habitation 598
Buildings in course of erection 57

At Census of 1921.

TABLE II.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1925.

DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED.													Total Deaths.	DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified in each Ward.				HOSPITAL.	
		YEARS.																			
	Total Cases at all Ages.	Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and over.			North Ward.	South Ward.	East Ward.	West Ward.	Total Cases removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of of persons belonging to district.
Smallpox															Smallpox						
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	6					1	2	1	1	1				1	Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	3	1	1	1	6	1
Erysipelas	7							2	1	1		1	2		Erysipelas		4	3		7	
Scarlet Fever	17				2		11	1		3					Scarlet Fever	8	3	3	3	17	
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	2									1		1			Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	2				2	
Totals	32				2	1	13	4	2	6		2	2	1	Totals	13	8	7	4	32	1
Puerperal Fever															Puerperal Fever						
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis															Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis						
Poliomyelitis															Poliomyelitis						
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1													Ophthalmia Neonatorum			1			
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	28						8	2	2	8	4	4		8	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	5	16	3		
Other forms of Tuberculosis	6		1				3	1					1	3	Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	3	1	1		
Totals	67	1	1		2	1	24	7	4	14	4	6	3	12	Totals	18	16	25	8	32	1

Isolation Hospital—Smallpox Hospital, Storrs Hill Road, Ossett Total available beds 8.
Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated—one.

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1925.

DEATHS AT ALL AGES. (a) Actually Registered in the District. Private Residents. Belonging to the District. (1)	Private Residents. To be transferred away. (2)	Inmates of Public Institutions. Belonging to the District. (3)	Inmates of Public Institutions. To be transferred away (4)	(b) Transferred to the District from outside. (5)	CAUSE OF DEATH. (6)	ANALYSIS OF NETT DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGE. All Ages. (7)	Under 1. (8)	1 and under 2. (9)	2 and under 3. (10)	3 and under 4. (11)	4 and under 5. (12)	5 and under 10. (13)	10 and under 15. (14)	15 and under 20. (15)	20 and under 35. (16)	35 and under 45. (17)	45 and under 65. (18)	65 and over. (19)
					Enteric Fever ..													
					Measles	1	1											
					Scarlet Fever													
					Whooping Cough ..	1			1									
				1	Diphtheria and croup	1												
				1	Influenza	3												2
					Meningococcal Meningitis ..													
				5	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	8									2			1
				1	Other tuberculous diseases	3	1											
				3	Cancer, malignant disease	21										2	7	9
					Rheumatic Fever ..													
					Diabetes	2												2
				1	Cerebral Haemorage,etc	15											4	10
				2	Heart Disease ..	28									1	1	6	18
				1	Arterio Scelerosis ..	2											1	
				2	Bronchitis ..	30	1										12	15
				7	Pneumonia all forms)	30	4	2				1		2	4	7	3	
				1	Other respiratory diseases	4											1	2
					Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ..													
					Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ..	1		1										
				1	Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1												
					Cirrhosis of Liver ..													
				3	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	12										2	4	3
					Other Acc. & Dis. of Pregnancy & Parturition	1								1				
				2	Congenital Debility and Malformation including Premature Birth	15	13											
					Suicides	1												1
				3	Other Deaths from Violence	4												1
				5	Other Defined Diseases	18	1					2		2			4	4
					Causes Ill-defined or unknown													
				2	Old Age	11												9
				41	TOTALS	213	21	3	1			2	2	2	6	9	46	80

TABLE IV.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1925.

DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES IN WEEKS AND MONTHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
ALL CAUSES. Certified										
ALL CAUSES. Uncertified ...										
Common Infectious Diseases. Small-pox										
Common Infectious Diseases. Chicken-pox ...										
Common Infectious Diseases. Measles										
Common Infectious Diseases. Scarlet Fever ...										
Common Infectious Diseases. Whooping Cough ...										
Common Infectious Diseases. Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)										
Common Infectious Diseases. Typhoid Fever ...										
Erysipelas										
Tuberculous Diseases. Tuberculous Meningitis										
Tuberculous Diseases. Abdominal Tuberculosis ...										
Tuberculous Diseases. Other Tuberculous Diseases							1			1
Meningitis ... (*not Tuberculous*)								1		1
Convulsions				1	1				2	3
Laryngitis										
Bronchitis			1		1				1	2
Pneumonia (*all forms*)						1	2			3
Diarrhœal Diseases. Diarrhœa, all forms										
Diarrhœal Diseases. Enteritis (*not Tuberculous*)										
Gastritis										
Syphilis										
Rickets										
Suffocation, overlaying										
Atelectasis										
Wasting Diseases. Injury at Birth ...										
Wasting Diseases. Congenital Malformations ...	1				1					1
Wasting Diseases. Premature Birth ..	5		1		6	1				7
Wasting Diseases. Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ...	4				4					4
Other Causes						1				1
TOTALS	10		2	1	13	3	3	1	3	23

Births in the year { legitimate ... 265 ; illegitimate ... 6

Deaths in the year { legitimate infants ... 213 ; illegitimate infants ... 0

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS, 1926.

Population at Census 1921, 14,802.

Number of occupied houses at Census 1921, 3,793.

Area of Borough (in acres), 3,332.

Density of Population (i.e., number of persons per acre), 4·4.

Number of Births—Males 149.

Females 122.

Illegitimate 6.

Birth-rate, per 1,000 living, 17·81.

Number of Deaths—Males 113.

Females 100.

Illegitimate Nil.

Death-rate per 1,000, 11·26.

Death-rate from seven principal Zymotic Diseases per 1,000 living, ·26.

Phthisis death-rate, ·52.

Death-rate from all forms of Tubercular Diseases, including Phthisis, ·72.

Infantile Mortality per 1,000 births, 84.

Estimated Population to middle of 1924, 14,900.

TABLE D.

SUMMARY OF HOUSING WORK DURING 1925.

Table showing action under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909, Section 28 of the 1919 Act, Section 10 of the 1923 Act, and the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, dated September 2nd, 1910, or matters arising therefrom.

† NOTE.—In filling up Columns 8 to 12; 14 to 16; and 18 to 26; regard must be given to "Housing" work dealt with during the year, including arrears at end of 1924.

Houses with defects not disposed of at end of 1924.			Houses inspected for "Housing defects" in 1924 under Acts and Regulations.			Houses not reasonably fit. Action under Section 28, 1919; Section 10, 1923; Section 1, 1925.						Action under Public Health Acts in cases of houses with minor defects not remediable under Section 28, 1919: Section 10, 1923; Section 1, 1925.				Unfit Houses. Action under Sections 17 or 18, 1909.									Appeals.				Houses with defects not disposed of at end of 1925.			
Houses not reasonably fit for habitation. Section 28, 1919, or Section 10, 1923.	Houses (recorded under "Housing") with minor defects (Public Health Acts).	Houses totally unfit. (Sections 17 and 18), 1909.	Total inspected and recorded.	Houses found satisfactory on inspection.	Houses needing further action (allocated and dealt with under appropriate heads, Cols. 7 to 12, or 13 to 16, or 17 to 26).	Houses found with defects. *(Being houses allocated from Col.) 6 under above heading).	Houses of this class remedied without formal notice.	Houses in regard to which formal notices were served.	Houses made fit after formal notice.	Houses in respect of which the Council executed or were executing work in default of owner.	Houses in regard to which owner elected to close house instead of complying with notices.	Houses with defects. *(Being houses allocated from Col. 6 under above heading).	Houses remedied without service of formal notice.	Houses in regard to which formal notices were served.	Houses made satisfactory after formal notice.	Houses found to be totally unfit. *(Being unfit houses allocated from Col. 6 under above heading).	Houses closed voluntarily.	Unfit houses remedied without formal notice.	Houses represented to Council for closing orders.	Houses in respect of which closing orders were made.	Houses closed after service of closing order.	Houses made fit and closing order determined by Council.	Houses demolished voluntarily.	Houses for which demolition orders were made by Council.	Houses demolished compulsorily.	Appeals against notices under Section 28, 1919, or Section 10, 1923.	Appeals against closing orders under Section 17, 1909.	Appeals under Section 17 (6) 1909, refusing to determine closing orders.	Appeals against demolition orders, Section 18, 1909.	Houses not reasonably fit for habitation. (Section 28, 1919, or Section 10, 1923.)	Houses (recorded under "Housing") with minor defects. (Public Health Acts).	Houses totally unfit. Section 17, 1909.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
0	6	0	65	31	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0

* The totals of the three columns 7, 13 and 17 should equal Column 6.

OTHER ACTION IN REGARD TO HOUSING:—

Total number of houses in district.—3,919. Number of working-class houses.—3,533. General standard compared with that of the Ministry of Health in Manual Vol. I., 1919.—Good.

Obstructive Buildings.—Any building represented by M.O.H. under Sec 38 (1) of 1890 Act?—No.

Result of action (if any).—None.

Any building represented by Inhabitant Householders under Sec. 38 (2) of 1890 Act?.—No.

Unhealthy Areas.—Any representations under part I or II of the 1890 Act? If so, give particulars.—No.

Re-construction Scheme.—Have L.A. directed any to be prepared under Sec. 39 of 1890 Act?—No.

Conversion of Houses.—Any houses required for division into separate tenements, under the 1919 Act? If so, give particulars.—No.

Unfit Houses.—Any complaints by Local Government Electors under Sec. 31 of 1890 Act as amended by the 1923 Act?—No.

Do. Any complaints by Parish Council under Sec. 6 (2) of the Local Government Act, 1894?—No.

Any action under Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899 to 1923?—No

Any scarcity of houses, if so, where?—Generally throughout the Borough.

Any overcrowding of persons in houses, and where?—Isolated cases in various parts of the Town.

No. of cases of overcrowding dealt with during 1925.—None.

Total number of houses built in the district under State aided and all conditions in 1925.—(a) Working class dwellings, 37; (b) Other, 8.

State-aided Housing Schemes.

A. Scheme under 1919 Act.

Number of houses erected in 1925. (1) By Council—None. (2) By Private Builders' Subsidy—None.

B. Scheme under 1923 Act.

Have Council propounded a scheme under this Act?—Yes.

Has a scheme been submitted to the Ministry of Health for their approval?—Yes. Has it been approved?—Yes.

If scheme is approved, please enclose particulars of same.—Copy enclosed with last report.

Is assistance given to private individuals? (a) By lump sum.—Yes. For block of 2 not more than £90 per house. For block of 3 not more than £75 per house. (b) and (c).—No.

Nnumber of houses completed by Local Authority under this scheme in 1925.—23.

Number of houses completed by Private Persons under this scheme in 1925.—14.

Number of houses completed by Public Utility Societies under this scheme in 1925.—None.

C. Scheme under 1924 Act.

No action.

Total number of houses provided under all State aided schemes in 1925.—37.

Town Planning.

Have Council joined Regional Town Planning Committee?—Yes. Leeds and Bradford Regional Town Planning Committee.

Have Council passed a resolution in 1925 deciding to prepare a scheme?—No.

Any scheme contemplated?—No.

Have Council propounded a scheme in 1925?—No.

Has a scheme been finally approved by the Ministry of Health in 1925?—No.

Has a scheme been submitted to the Ministry of Health in 1925?—No.

Has a preliminary statement been prepared and submitted to the Ministry for approval?—No.

Name and Address of Officer designated to make inspections under Article II of Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910?—C. Firth, Town Hall, Ossett.

Signed. W. L. RENE WOOD,
Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S

TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Twenty-First Annual Report.

The year 1925, like so many of its immediate predecessors, has been frankly disappointing. A hope expressed in my last report that our new water supply would be available has not been fulfilled owing to various unforeseen delays in more than one section of the work, and some considerable time must elapse in 1926 before this happy consummation can be achieved. We have somewhat improved our rate of conversions of privies to water-closets and this year will, I hope, prove to be the commencement of a very much accelerated and systematic abolition of the privy system. At the time of writing, preparations are being made with this object, and within a few years the water-carriage system should be complete with the exception, of course, of the outlying areas where a sewerage system is unavailable.

The last three months of the year brought outside work practically to a standstill owing to the remarkable severity of the weather.

With the exception of our privy-midden system the general sanitary condition of the Borough can be regarded as fairly satisfactory.

I have, however, again to draw your attention to the condition of many of our private streets. Many of these are now built up, and consideration should be given to making them up at an early date. Hand in hand with this, yard surfaces should also receive attention. Small yards should be covered with an impervious surface and in the case of large yards—of which we have many—reasonable access should be provided to houses and conveniences. This work can and should be undertaken in conjunction with conversions.

From the Sanitary Inspector's point of view, especially in manufacturing districts, the actual result of our housing progress, which so far as Ossett is concerned is active, is somewhat disappointing. One had hopes and opinions that the provision of a good type of house would result in a gradual move from existing property, which would release a considerable number of existing houses for the relief of overcrowding and those who are not in a position to pay the necessarily high charges in the new houses. These hopes and opinions have only been fulfilled in a very small measure. I trust the new houses which are to be built to let will considerably accelerate this phase of health service and enable us to deal with certain old properties which under the present conditions it is impracticable to do away with.

HOUSE REFUSE AND REMOVAL.

Under existing conditions this work has been carried out in a fairly satisfactory manner. The cost has been slightly less than last year, chiefly owing to cost of labour and repairs to stock. Although rather less refuse has been collected the number of receptacles emptied shows a considerable increase, which indicates an improved service.

Removal.	£	s.	d.
Team Labour—Wages	643	12	8
Manual Labour—Wages	406	2	4
	£1049	15	0
Cost of Stables—			
Provender	250	0	0
Blacksmiths' Work	50	9	5
Cart and Harness Repairs and Covers	51	15	0
Veterinary Surgeon	3	6	6
Repairs and Sundries	0	3	0
Horse	46	0	0
	£401	13	11
Total	£1451	8	11

Total number of Ashpits and Bins emptied			40380
	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.
Weight of Refuse to the Destructor	3210	16	0
Number of loads to Tips	2558	0	0
Number of loads to Land	1240	0	0
Total Refuse removed (allowing 1 ton for each load to Tip or Land)	7008	16	0

Average weight per load to Destructor, 21·12 cwts.

	s.	d.
Cost per ton delivered at Destructor, Land or Tips (Team and Manual Labour) (nearly)	3	0

Disposal.

	£	s.	d.
Cost of Destructor—			
Stokers' Wages	578	3	0
Weighing	26	0	0
	£604	3	0

	s.	d.
Gross cost per ton destroying	3	6
Nett cost per ton destroying (i.e., deducting workmen's wages during the time destructor was set down and including bonus)	2	11½

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Inhabited Houses	3919
Privies	1092
Water Closets (with Cisterns)	1537
Automatic Fresh-water Closets	26
Waste-water Closets	80
	2735
Privy Middens	488
Dry Ashpits	311
Ashbins	1041
	1840

GENERAL.

Legal Notices served	37
Informal Notices served	293

DETAILED LIST OF NUISANCES ABATED.

Privies converted to W.C.'s	127
Additional W.C.'s provided	15
Privy Middens converted to Dry Ashpits or Bins	44
Privies or W.C.'s repaired	72
Urinals cleansed or reconstructed	3
Ashbins provided	295
Houses redrained	47
Houses repaired or ventilated	42
Drains cleared	51
Defective eaves and fall pipes repaired ...	133
Defective roofs	54
Premises Limewashed	8
Nuisances in Workshops	13
Defective sink pipes repaired	37
Excessive Smoke	2

SMOKE.

Owing to the abnormally bad state of trade in our local industry, with the consequent irregularity in the running of the various plants, the question of observations has been difficult. Two warnings have been issued, but there is still room for improvement at certain works. Such an improvement would be to the mutual benefit of the owner and resident. When trade is more stable I propose to take stronger action in certain cases.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

In only one case has it been necessary to ask for limewashing. The general cleanliness is good and with the exception of two, the structural conditions are satisfactory. No meat has

been seized, but four carcases of beef, 2cwts. of cut-up beef, and one carcase of a pig have been voluntarily surrendered and destroyed.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There have been no additions to the register of Offensive Trades—all of which have been carried on without complaint.

DISINFECTIONS.

The following houses have been disinfected after the existence of infectious disease: Scarlet Fever, 15; Diphtheria, 5; Typhoid, 2; Consumption, 25; other cases, 4; and schools have been disinfected on 19 occasions as a preventive measure.

COWSHEDS.

During the year we had visits from the Members and Officials of a special sub-committee of the West Riding County Council. On the whole their report could be regarded as fairly satisfactory, especially as regards the condition of the cows. Some of the older buildings should have structural alterations or be replaced. In one or two cases the absence of land adjoining the buildings is a grave stumbling block, as the owners do not consider themselves justified in expenditure which would be wasted should the present occupiers move.

FOODS AND DRUGS.

Eight samples were submitted for analysis (two each of butter and lard, one malt vinegar, one packeted peas, one margarine, and one jam). All proved to be genuine samples.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS.

Although we have had no actual case of Contagious Disease, we were, during November and December, and into 1926, in a "Scheduled Area" owing to outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease. This necessitated the issue of licences for the movement of all animals, with consequent increased duties in this part of your Sanitary Department.

HOSPITAL.

Fortunately the wide-spread occurrence of Small Pox has not yet invaded your area. The Hospital has had installed new heating appliances, bath and w.c.'s, and is in a fit condition for the admittance of patients at short notice.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES FIRTH.